

The Watauga Democrat.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY

ONLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN WATAUGA COUNTY

ESTABLISHED IN 1888

VOLUME XXXIII

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY SEPT. 14, 1922

NUMBER 46

CONDENSED NEWS FROM THE OLD NORTH STATE

SHORT NOTES OF INTEREST TO CAROLINIANS.

Greensboro.—Election of officers, addresses and round-table discussions constituted the activities of the North Carolina nurses' convention here. Pearl Weaver, of Hendersonville, was elected president.

Winston-Salem.—C. E. Shivers, a white man, was brought back from Homer, Ga., to answer the charge of stealing a car from the Robert E. Lee Taxicab company a few weeks ago. Shivers has confessed his guilt.

Warrenton.—The auction market here sold around seventy thousand pounds of tobacco at an average price of 18 cents. The largest crowd that ever attended an opening sale was on the floor and followed the market with interest.

Oxford.—The largest crowd ever in attendance at a tobacco market opening was here to witness the opening of the two auction warehouses which sold 70,500 pounds at an average price of \$24.70. Farmers appeared well satisfied with prices.

Wilson.—Tobacco in large quantities continues to flow into the six large auction sales warehouses in this city and there is a marked showing in averages for one-day sales. On Monday 642,890 pounds sold for \$190,770.61—an average of \$29.67 per hundred pounds.

Elizabeth City.—Dr. S. H. Templeman, of Laurens, S. C., has accepted the call tendered him by the First Baptist church of this city. Dr. Templeman will arrive here about October 1st, preaching his first sermon on the first Sunday of the month.

Henderson.—The equipment of the R. G. Lassiter company, the successful bidder for the large paving contract which was recently let by the city of Henderson, including twenty odd streets to be paved, moved into the city and it is stated that actual work will begin the first of next week.

High Point.—Jefferson C. Grinnalds, expert city planner and zoner, who has attracted much attention throughout the state, is engaged to address a mass meeting of High Point citizens on the night of September 12, it was announced by the local chamber of commerce.

Zebulon.—The Zebulon tobacco market is enjoying one of the best years since 1919. With the opening of another house, McGuire's warehouse, now known as the Zebulon warehouse, there are three houses operating under the auction system.

Middlesex.—The Middlesex high school will formally open on Monday, September 25, the delay in starting being caused by the fact that the new school building is not yet completed. However, the structure is expected to be ready for occupancy on the opening date.

High Point.—Coy Benfield, of Hickory, is in a local hospital, suffering from injuries received when he was struck by Southern passenger train No. 38, while he was sitting on the railroad track near Lexington. Attending physicians stated they have hopes of his recovery, although the seriousness of his injuries have been increased by pneumonia.

Charlotte.—Connelly Robinson, of the local law firm of Newell & Robinson, and L. A. Whitener, Hickory lawyer, had the unusual experience of being mistaken for prohibition enforcement officers three miles this side of Blowing Rock, where they had gone to spend the week-end, and were the objects of a volley of shots, none of which took effect.

Greenville.—Prof Albert E. Mullberger has accepted a position with the city schools of Greenville and will have charge of the entire music department. He will teach piano, voice, choral work and pipe organ.

Greensboro.—Police here, throwing out a dragnet, rounded up 26 negroes charged with bootlegging. The raid netted more men than any other ever pulled off here.

Charlotte.—J. E. King, charged with the murder of Irwin Little, a Canadian, was found guilty of murder in the second degree by a Mecklenburg county jury. He appealed and was released on \$5,000 bond.

Greenville.—Tobacco sales on the local market here was considerably heavier for the past week than ever before, there being sold 1,238,392 lbs. for the sum of \$321,225.14, making an average of \$23.13.

Rutherfordton.—It is learned in Rutherfordton that the Farmers Bank and Trust company, of Forest City, has just completed arrangements with the Virginia-Carolina Joint Stock Land Bank, of Elizabeth City, N. C., where by they can loan to the farm owners of Rutherfordton county any part of four million dollars.

REORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL GUARD

BEING GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY WAR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

SECRETARY FAVORS PROPOSAL

New Adjustment to More Economical Basis For Peace Time Development Proposed.

Washington.—Reorganization of the National Guard on a more economical basis for its peace-time development is being given serious consideration by members of the house sub-committee on military appropriations and by war department officials. Suggestions already have been made that the maximum strength allowed by law be decreased from 300 men per senator and representative to 450 or 500, making a reduction in the organization's authorized peace strength of about 185,000 men.

In a letter to Representative Anthony, Kansas, chairman of the house sub-committee on military appropriations, which was made public recently, Secretary Weeks pointed out two methods by which a new adjustment of the national guard might be accomplished. The first would be to limit the strength and development by limiting appropriations and the second would prescribe "a more reasonable requirement as to the prescribed peace strength."

"In my opinion," Secretary Weeks said, "the latter is the fairest and best; moreover, it is due to both the National Guard and to the War Department to know where they stand. In view of the fact that the present strength was fixed solely by Congress, and being fearful of being misunderstood by the National Guard, I hesitate to make any definite recommendations."

Regarding the possible reduction in strength, the secretary added, "the suggestion has been made from National Guard sources that a peace-time strength of 250,000, or 450 or 500 per senator and representative, would be adequate at the present time."

"This strength," the war secretary continued, "would permit of the completion of the 18 infantry divisions, a proper proportion of cavalry troops, the coast artillery companies and certain independent infantry and special troop units which are essential and necessary. I consider the 18 infantry divisions the keystone of the structure and, in my opinion, nothing should be done which would interfere with their completion. It is possible that certain auxiliary units which are included in the division could be withdrawn, such as the air squadron and the tank company, in those cases where the state will have difficulty in maintaining units of this character."

Questionnaires already have been sent by the War Department to the commanding generals of all regular army corps areas and by the militia bureau to the state adjutants general, requesting the views on a new reorganization of the national guard. All these communications point out that the "economic conditions confronting the government and the states make it expedient to consider a modification of the allotment of the troops of the national guard to the states."

England Gives Up Gold Store.

Paris.—It is announced that approximately 500,000,000 of the 1,943,000,000 of French gold francs on deposit with the Bank of England since 1916, as a guarantee for credits advanced to the French government, are to be returned to France within a few days.

Considerable satisfaction is expressed in the ministry of finance and the Bank of France and it is planned to continue the payments against which the gold was hypothecated until the entire amount is returned.

French financiers have been concerned over the tying up in the Bank of England for six years of nearly two-fifths of the Bank of France's gold.

Kaiser Will Marry Widowed Princess.

London.—The former kaiser's intended bride is Princess Hermine of Reuss, 34 years of age, widow, according to a report quoted by the Daily Mail's Berlin correspondent.

The engagement, he adds, will not be announced until after the anniversary of the late ex-kaiser's birthday, October 22.

Princess Hermine is the widow of Prince Jean of Schonach-Caroloth, who died in April, 1920. She was born December 17, 1887, and is the mother of five children, the eldest of whom is 14.

BELVIN MAYNARD IS KILLED IN VERMONT

"FLYING PARSON," WITH TWO OTHERS, ARE KILLED WHEN AIRPLANE FALLS.

MAYNARD'S BODY SENT HOME

Few Hours Later An Aeronaut, Leaping From Balloon, Killed When Parachute Failed to Open.

Rutland, Vt.—For a crowd of 30,000 people, assembled at the Rutland fair grounds "a flying circus" staged with aeroplanes and balloons was turned into a tragedy, four participants meeting death. An aeroplane crashed from a height of 2,000 feet, carrying to their deaths the pilot, mechanic and a passenger. A few hours later an aeronaut, leaping from a balloon 1,500 feet in the air, was killed when his parachute failed to open.

The dead: Lieutenant Belvin W. Maynard, known throughout the country as "the Flying Parson," pilot of the aeroplane.

Lieutenant L. R. Wood, of Ticonderoga, N. Y., passenger with Maynard.

Mechanic Charles Mionette, Plattsburgh, N. Y.

Henry A. (Daredevil) Smith, Boston, aeronaut.

Lieutenant Maynard and his companions, who had been making daily flights at the fair grounds, crashed, about 1 o'clock, in a field near the grounds. Hardly had the crowd recovered from the shock and thrill of this tragedy when the second accident came. Smith, a professional aeronaut, had already made two successful parachute leaps at various altitudes. On the third attempt the parachute was seen to open slightly and then close up tightly. The aeronaut dropped like a plummet, falling just outside the fence of the grounds.

Smith, who was 42 years of age, had been giving parachute exhibitions at fairs throughout the east for the past ten years and was regarded as one of the best in his line. Two years ago, while attempting a parachute drop from an aeroplane at Lynn, Mass., he fell 800 feet and was severely injured. The pilot of the plane was killed.

The aeronaut claimed that his average was thirty parachute drops a year. Lieutenant Maynard and his two companions crashed to almost instant death when their airplane went into a nose dive at an altitude of two thousand feet and fell to the earth.

Lieutenant Wood and Charles Mionette, with whom Lieutenant Maynard comprised the personnel of a "flying circus" that had entertained large crowds daily for a week with stunt flying, went up as passengers. Both were instantly killed. Lieutenant Maynard, who piloted the plane, was breathing when spectators rushed to the wreck, but died on the way to the hospital.

The body of Lieutenant Maynard was sent to his home at Kerr, N. C.

Woman Shot During Search.

Shelby, N. C.—Mrs. I. B. Miller of Caroleen, is in a serious condition, probably fatally injured, at the Rutherford hospital, suffering from the effects of two bullet wounds, and Prohibition Enforcement Officer Evan Houser, Deputies John Wesson and Pearl Hoyle and Carl Short, the last named the driver of the officers' car, are held under \$500 bond, as a result of an attempt to search an automobile near Casser, this county.

Mrs. Miller, her husband and small daughter and Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Thompson and child, all of Caroleen, were stopped near Casser by the officers, who thought the car contained whiskey. The machine was halted, but according to Officer Houser's statement, when Houser stepped on the running board of the car, the machine was quickly thrown in gear and moved off at a rapid rate of speed. Some one shot. Houser states he does not know who it was. Mrs. Miller was hit in the back, the bullet taking effect in the liver.

Freight Movement on Increase.

Washington.—Despite the effect of the shopmen's strike, freight loadings on all the country's railroads during the week ended August 26 totaled 890,828 cars, an increase of 34,619 cars as compared with the preceding week according to a report by the Association of Railway Executives. Coal loadings totaled 111,038, or 29,071 more than the week before, the report showed.

STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION MEETS

OVER 1,900 MILES OF NEW ROADS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, COSTING \$34,000,000.

OVER 700 MILES COMPLETED

Sub-Committee Named to Work Out Proposed Amendments to State Road Law.

Raleigh. Nineteen hundred miles of roads let to contract at an approximate cost of \$34,000,000, and 4,000 miles of other roads under maintenance at a cost of less than three million dollars for the 16 month period since the State Highway Commission was reorganized in May, 1921, was the summary of the work of the commission presented to the members in session by Chairman Frank Page.

Meeting for the first time in three months, the commission spent the entire day in taking stock of what has been done, and in clearing the way for future activities in road construction and maintenance throughout the state.

Looking beyond the immediate needs of the commission, Chairman Page, upon the suggestion of the commissioner, named a sub-committee to work out suggested amendments to the state road law to be presented to the general assembly in 1923. Members of the committee are Chairman Page, Commissioners Hill, Cox, Wilkerson, McGirt and Doughton.

Road mileage already let to contract has reached the economic limit of the state to build roads, in the opinion of the engineering staff of the commission, and no more contracts will be let, with the exception of more urgent projects, until next spring, when a considerable part of the mileage now under construction will have been completed and material and contractors will be available for new work.

The entire day was taken up by the commission in working over the report of Commissioner Page and the discussion of plans for more intensive attention to construction work and maintenance of roads in the state system.

Nineteen hundred miles of road, 931 miles of which is of hard surfaced type, let to contract and over 700 miles of which has been already completed and put into use is a record without parallel in the annals of road building in America, declares State Highway Engineer Charles M. Upham. Pennsylvania under Colonel George Ulmer got 1,200 miles under construction in that length of time, which was regarded as phenomenal.

Cotton Moving at Many Points.

Receiving points at all important places in the cotton belt that do not have state licensed warehouses are being established by B. F. Brown, manager of the cotton department of the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Co-operative association. Field representatives of the association will be given regular itineraries of towns in the counties in which they are located. In addition to the field agents, who will begin receiving cotton right away, there will be receiving agents at many important warehouses to take cotton and ship it for members.

The cotton association has completed negotiations with warehouses to receive cotton at the following places: Pee Dee, Monroe, Polkton, Statesville, Mt. Giload, Morven, Lileville, Rowland, Moncure, Fayetteville, Dunn, Smithfield, Crookedcreek, Lenoir, Kelford, Clinton, Polktonville, New Bern, Oriental, La Grange.

Contracts have been made by the association with the following warehouses, which have not yet received their state licenses but which will have them within the next few days, as their applications are now in Washington for approval: Charlotte, Greensboro, Garland, Garner, Kinston, Kings Mountain, Kenley, Lillington, Mount Olive, Littleton, Middlesex, Nashville, Norlina, Sanford, Elizabeth City, Everetts.

Negotiations are pending with a score of other warehouses at different points throughout the state. These will be completed, it is expected, before cotton begins to move in large volume. In the meantime, cotton received by receiving agents or shipped by members will be stored in one of the warehouses named above.

The first samples received at the state headquarters of the cotton association was a batch of 41 from the cotton warehouses at Polkton and Morven. The samples were promptly cleaned and this department of the cotton association set in motion.

Cotton Crop Shows Decline.

The cotton crop of both North Carolina and the cotton belt shows the phenomenal decline of over 13 per cent during August, which resulted in a decreased forecast of \$25,000 bales. Added to this was an additional one per cent decrease in acreage and 367,000 bales due to abandonment since June 25th when the regular abandonment report is accounted for. These conditions forecast a crop of only 10,575,000 bales as compared with the short crop of 7,954,000 bales last year. Thus the crops of both this and last year will be but little more than the single crop of 1914 when over 16,135,000 bales were produced.

The condition a year ago was three per cent less than on August 25th this year, but the unusually favorable fall conditions and lack of boll weevil resulted in very fine per acre yields. The exceedingly continued wet conditions in the coastal belt and serious boll weevil damage in the southern half of the state cannot, this year, be so readily altered. Instead of the 776,000 bale crop of last year, it may be nearer 700,000 bales.

The present conditions of cotton according to the United States Crop Reporting Board's release through the Co-operative Crop Reporting Service for this state are for this and last year as follows: North Carolina 65 and 62 per cent with 78 for July 25th. The southern belt has 57 as compared with 49 a year ago and 71 a month ago.

Eight State in Federal Tax.

North Carolina stands eighth in the payment of taxes into the federal treasury, coming up short only a trifle more than \$2,000,000 on its grand total, while the nation was shrinking \$1,397,905,978.

New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Massachusetts and California alone exceed North Carolina in the symbols of nation riches. Each of these great states has one or more cities which contain more than one-fourth of North Carolina's population and three of them have cities which incorporate more citizens than are in all North Carolina. These congested centers produce great taxables. But North Carolina without a municipality appreciably above 50,000 in population, is in the favored group of eight. The analysis of the North Carolina showing ascribes much of the loyal wealth to tobacco, but Virginia and Kentucky, both far under North Carolina, have made their reputation on North Carolina tobacco. And each has a city larger than any five North Carolina claims.

North Carolina's collections shrank from \$134,790,000 or thereabouts to \$122,413,329. That was a loss of less than 2 per cent. Florida was next with 17 per cent loss. But the country was badly smitten. It paid last year \$4,555,357,061.96. This year the gross amount is only \$3,197,451,922, a loss of nearly fourteen hundred millions. Virginia is nearest North Carolina among the Southern states and the Old Dominion produced \$1,695,233.

South Carolina fell off 63 per cent, Delaware and Idaho 50, Mississippi 53, South Dakota 55, Utah 58, Georgia and Arizona 49. The local collector's office had hoped, in that showing, that his turns out to be the richest district in the country. New York state has 96 divisions which produced \$6,000,000. That beats North Carolina. Two other states made a bigger district average, but North Carolina comes fourth.

Employment figures in Commissioner M. L. Shipman's office showed 599 registrations last week and 499 placements, and improvement.

Skilled applicants for work found 101 places, unskilled 319, clerical and professional 43, domestic 36. Charlotte led the way this time with 113. Asheville came second with 110 and Winston-Salem third with 95. Greensboro had 62, Raleigh 48 and Wilmington 66.

State Democratic Chairman Dave Norwood of Salisbury is here for several days again this week and this time the chairman is working on letters to which larger and smaller organizations which will help in the fall registrations and voting.

As the approach of school takes hundreds and even thousands of teachers and students away, Mr. Norwood is calling upon the registration officials to allow the registrants who must be absent the privilege of registering under the absentee voters' act.

The letters to county chairmen asking them to prittle for the making of county vice-chairmen, positions to be filled with women, have been mailed and in time there will be 100 assisting chairmen who will be women.

Governor Grants Four Pardons.

Giving consideration to pardon applications in wholesale lots for the first time in some months, Governor Morrison granted four and declined seven. Three of the applications declined were from bootleggers, two from slayers and two for minor offenses.

THREE KILLED WHEN 400 CASES OF DYNAMITE GO OFF

Charlotte, N. C.—Three negroes were killed by the explosion of around 400 cases of dynamite at one of the storerooms of the Rhinehart & Dennis Construction company at Mountain Island dam, according to reports received here.

The cause of the explosion is unknown, but one theory advanced was that one of the negroes had fired a pistol, either while inside the building, or into the building, setting off the explosive.

The force of the explosion was plainly felt at Mounty Holly, three miles away, and it was heard for miles around, it was stated.

A number of trees in the neighborhood of the storeroom were blown down by the force of the explosion and a yawning cavern was left to mark the site of the house after the accident.

Prices of Foods Show Decrease.

Washington.—Only one of 26 representative cities in the United States reported an increase in the level of retail food prices for the month from July 15 to August 15, and that was less than five-tenths of one per cent, according to figures made public by the bureau of labor statistics of the department of labor.

Decreases amounted to five per cent in Milwaukee and Springfield, Ill; four per cent in Indianapolis, Peoria, St. Louis and St. Paul; three per cent in Chicago, Kansas City, Manchester, Omaha and Philadelphia; two per cent in Baltimore, Bridgeport, Buffalo, Detroit, New Haven, New York, Providence, Rochester and Washington; one per cent in Dallas, Los Angeles, Portland, Maine, and Richmond, and less than five-tenths of one per cent in Little Rock.

To Build Hospital For Disabled Vets.

Washington.—Erection of a new hospital to cost \$750,000 for disabled servicemen in the fourth district, comprising Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, will begin when a suitable site can be obtained, Director Forbes, of the Veterans' Bureau, announced. Mr. Forbes has just returned from an inspection of available sites at Goshen, Va., and Pence Springs, W. Va.

The hospital will accommodate 250 patients and will make 12 hospitals to be established under the \$17,000,000 appropriation authorized by the second Langley bill.

Report Greeks Now in Flight.

Paris.—Latest advices reaching official circles here on the Asia Minor situation declare that all that remains of the Greek army is 100,000 men fleeing in utter rout before the Turkish Nationalists and now less than 60 miles from the Mediterranean. The advices declare it is probable that only half that number of Greeks will reach the sea, as organized fighting units of Turks are now within 50 miles of Smyrna and 40 miles from the Sea of Marmora.

Greek Corps Reported Captured.

Paris.—The Turkish advance guards now are less than thirty miles from Smyrna, according to the latest official advices reaching Paris from Ankara. The Nationalist cavalry is reported as making a dash for the coast at Smyrna.

Angora reports the capture of an entire Greek army corps of the southern group which was encircled in the region of Salihli and surrendered. The cities of Balikesir and Sandirli have been occupied by the Nationalists.

Greeks Fall Back.

Athens.—A military communique issued recently says that there has been a withdrawal along the whole Greek front under pressure of the enemy. Some official reports declare that the situation has considerably improved and that the army's morale is excellent.

General Tricoupis, in command of the forces in the field, has been replaced by General Hadjanestis, commander-in-chief of Asia Minor, and General Doumanis has been appointed chief of general staff.

Allen Portrait Given to State.

Before an assembly that taxed the seating capacity of the North Carolina supreme court room, Judge Frank Daniels reviewed the life, character and achievements of the late W. R. Allen, associate justice of the court, and for the members of the Allen family, presented to the court an oil portrait of Judge Allen.

Virtually all the members of the bars of Wayne and Duplin counties, besides admirers of Judge Allen from many other counties in the state, attended the ceremonies.